SCHREIBER
Serial No.: 09/535,951

November 25, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

Claims 8-17 (Cancel).

- 18. (New) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction 17-OH progesterone in an amount and under conditions such that said reduction is effected.
- 19. (New) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction 16-methylprogesterone in an amount and under conditions such that said reduction is effected.
- 20. (New) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising

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administering to a patient in need of such reduction a progestational agent of formula:

wherein R and R_1 individually are hydrogen or taken together form a double bond; R_2 is hydrogen or methyl; R_3 is hydrogen or hydroxyl; and R_4 is hydrogen or hydroxyl, and

wherein said agent is administered in an amount and under conditions such that said reduction is effected.

- 21. (New) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction cortexolone in an amount and under conditions such that said reduction is effected.
- 22. (New) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction $5-\alpha$ -pregnan-3,20-dione in an amount and under conditions such that said reduction is effected.